



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 10
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101

April 24, 2008

Reply To
Attn Of: ETPA-088

Ref: 06-033-AFS

Ms. Jennie O'Connor
Invasive Plant EIS
Mt. Hood National Forest
16400 Champion Way
Sandy, OR 97055

Dear Ms. O'Connor:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and Record of Decision (ROD) for the Site-Specific Invasive Plant Treatments on Mt. Hood National Forest and Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, including Forest Plan Amendment #16 (CEQ # 20060204) in accordance with our responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

The Mt. Hood National Forest and Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area in Oregon are proposing to eradicate, contain and control invasive plant infestations, to reverse the negative impacts caused by invasive plants, and to restore healthy, native plant communities and functions at impacted sites. The selected alternative is Alternative 2. This alternative would undertake ground-based herbicide application plus manual, mechanical and cultural control, and combinations of treatments on 208 sites (approximately 13,000 acres). Of the acres treated, up to 12,963 could be treated with herbicide.

We appreciate the efforts you and your staff have taken to address the comments concerns we expressed in our July 17, 2006 letter on the draft EIS. In particular, we appreciate that the final EIS and ROD include an expanded invasive plant decision key and an expanded discussion of the monitoring framework. We are keenly aware of the ecological challenges posed by invasive species, and we support the Forest Service's efforts to meet the proposed project Purpose and Need and avoid potential environmental impacts.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this final EIS. If you would like to discuss these comments in detail, please contact Teresa Kubo (503) 326-2859 or myself at (206) 553-1601.

Sincerely,

/s/

Christine Reichgott, Manager
NEPA Review Unit